

Unit 53

Verb + -ing (enjoy doing / stop doing etc.)

A

Look at these examples:

- ☐ I **enjoy** reading. (*not* I enjoy to read)
- ☐ Would you **mind** closing the door?
(*not* mind to close)
- ☐ Chris **suggested** going to the cinema.
(*not* suggested to go)

After **enjoy**, **mind** and **suggest**, we use **-ing** (*not* to ...).

Some more verbs that are followed by **-ing**:

stop	postpone	admit	avoid	imagine
finish	consider	deny	risk	fancy

- ☐ Suddenly everybody **stopped** talking. There was silence.
- ☐ I'll do the shopping when I've **finished** cleaning the flat.
- ☐ He tried to **avoid** answering my question.
- ☐ I don't **fancy** going out this evening. (= I'm not enthusiastic about it)
- ☐ Have you ever **considered** going to live in another country?

The negative form is **not -ing**:

- ☐ When I'm on holiday, I **enjoy not having** to get up early.



B

We also use **-ing** after:

give up (= stop)
 put off (= postpone)
 go on / carry on (= continue)
 keep or keep on (= do something continuously or repeatedly)

- ☐ I've **given up** reading newspapers. I think it's a waste of time.
- ☐ Jenny doesn't want to retire. She wants to **go on** working. (*or ... to carry on working.*)
- ☐ You **keep** interrupting when I'm talking! *or* You **keep on** interrupting ...

C

With some verbs you can use the structure **verb + somebody + -ing**:

- ☐ I can't **imagine** George riding a motorbike.
- ☐ You can't **stop me** doing what I want.
- ☐ 'Sorry to **keep you** waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form (**being done/seen/kept** etc.):

- ☐ I don't **mind being kept** waiting. (= I don't mind people keeping me ...)

D

When you are talking about finished actions, you can say **having done/stolen/said** etc. :

- ☐ They admitted **having stolen** the money.

But it is not necessary to use **having** (done). You can also say:

- ☐ They admitted **stealing** the money.
- ☐ I now regret **saying** (*or having said*) what I said.

For **regret**, see Unit 56B.

E

After some of the verbs on this page (especially **admit/deny/suggest**) you can also use **that ...** :







- ☐ They **denied that** they had stolen the money. (*or They denied stealing ...*)
- ☐ Sam **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (*or Sam suggested going ...*)

53.1 Complete each sentence with one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

~~answer~~ apply be forget listen live lose make read try use write

- 1 He tried to avoid answering my question.
- 2 Could you please stop so much noise?
- 3 I enjoy to music.
- 4 I considered for the job, but in the end I decided against it.
- 5 Have you finished the newspaper yet?
- 6 We need to change our routine. We can't go on like this.
- 7 I don't mind you the phone as long as you pay for all your calls.
- 8 My memory is getting worse. I keep things.
- 9 I've put off the letter so many times. I really must do it today.
- 10 What a stupid thing to do! Can you imagine anybody so stupid?
- 11 I've given up to lose weight – it's impossible.
- 12 If you invest your money on the stock market, you risk it.

53.2 Complete the sentences for each situation using -ing.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | What shall we do? |  | We could go to the zoo. | She suggested <u>going to the zoo</u> . |
| 2 | Do you want to play tennis? |  | No, not really. | He didn't fancy |
| 3 | You were driving too fast. |  | Yes, it's true. Sorry! | She admitted |
| 4 | Why don't we go for a swim? |  | Good idea! | She suggested |
| 5 | You broke the CD player. |  | No, I didn't! | He denied |
| 6 | Can you wait a few minutes? |  | Sure, no problem. | They didn't mind |

53.3 Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the first sentence. Use -ing.

- 1 I can do what I want and you can't stop me.
You can't stop me doing what I want.
- 2 It's not a good idea to travel during the rush hour.
It's better to avoid
- 3 Shall we paint the kitchen next weekend instead of this weekend?
Shall we postpone until ?
- 4 Could you turn the radio down, please?
Would you mind ?
- 5 Please don't interrupt me all the time.
Would you mind ?

53.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. Use -ing.

- 1 She's a very interesting person. I always enjoy talking to her.
- 2 I'm not feeling very well. I don't fancy
- 3 I'm afraid there aren't any chairs. I hope you don't mind
- 4 It was a beautiful day, so I suggested
- 5 It was very funny. I couldn't stop
- 6 My car isn't very reliable. It keeps

Unit 54

Verb + to ... (decide to ... / forget to ... etc.)

A

offer	decide	hope	deserve	promise
agree	plan	manage	afford	threaten
refuse	arrange	fail	forget	learn

After these verbs you can use **to ... (infinitive)**:

- ☐ It was late, so we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- ☐ Simon was in a difficult situation, so I **agreed to help** him.
- ☐ How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (or learnt how to drive)
- ☐ I waved to Karen, but **failed to attract** her attention.

The negative is **not to ...** :

- ☐ We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- ☐ I **promised not to be** late.

After some verbs **to ...** is not possible. For example, **enjoy/think/suggest**:

- ☐ I **enjoy** reading. (*not* enjoy to read)
- ☐ Tom **suggested** going to the cinema. (*not* suggested to go)
- ☐ Are you **thinking** of buying a car? (*not* thinking to buy)

For verb + **-ing**, see Unit 53. For verb + preposition + **-ing**, see Unit 62.

B

We also use **to ...** after:

seem appear tend pretend claim

For example:

- ☐ They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- ☐ I like Dan, but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- ☐ Ann **pretended not to see** me when she passed me in the street.

There is also a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**):

- ☐ I **pretended to be reading** the newspaper. (= I pretended that I **was** reading)
- ☐ You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you **have lost** weight)
- ☐ Martin **seems to be enjoying** his new job. (= it seems that he **is** enjoying it)

C

After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- ☐ I **wouldn't dare to tell** him. or I **wouldn't dare tell** him.

But after **dare not (or daren't)**, you must use the infinitive without **to**:

- ☐ I **daren't tell** him what happened. (*not* I daren't to tell him)

D

After some verbs you can use a question word (**what/whether/how** etc.) + **to ...**. We use this structure especially after:

ask decide know remember forget explain learn understand wonder

We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your holidays?
I don't know	whether	to apply	for the job or not.
Do you understand	what	to do?	

Also **show/tell/ask/advise/teach** somebody **what/how/where** to do something:

- ☐ Can somebody **show me how to change** the film in this camera?
- ☐ Ask Jack. He'll tell you **what to do**.

54.1 Complete the sentences for these situations.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Shall we get married? | Yes, let's. | They decided <u>to get married</u> . |
| 2 | Please help me. | OK. | She agreed |
| 3 | Can I carry your bag for you? | No, thanks. I can manage. | He offered |
| 4 | Let's meet at 8 o'clock. | OK, fine. | They arranged |
| 5 | What's your name? | I'm not going to tell you. | She refused |
| 6 | Please don't tell anyone. | I won't. I promise. | She promised |

54.2 Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

- Don't forget to post the letter I gave you.
- There was a lot of traffic, but we managed to the airport in time.
- Jill has decided not a car.
- We've got a new computer in our office. I haven't learnt it yet.
- Karen failed a good impression at the job interview.
- We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared anything.

54.3 Put the verb into the correct form, to ... or -ing. (See Unit 53 for verbs + -ing.)

- When I'm tired, I enjoy watching television. It's relaxing. (watch)
- It was a nice day, so we decided for a walk. (go)
- It's a nice day. Does anyone fancy for a walk? (go)
- I'm not in a hurry. I don't mind (wait)
- They don't have much money. They can't afford out very often. (go)
- I wish that dog would stop It's driving me mad. (bark)
- Our neighbour threatened the police if we didn't stop the noise. (call)
- We were hungry, so I suggested dinner early. (have)
- Hurry up! I don't want to risk the train. (miss)
- I'm still looking for a job, but I hope something soon. (find)

54.4 Make a new sentence using the verb in brackets.

- You've lost weight. (seem) You seem to have lost weight.
- Tom is worried about something. (appear) Tom appears
- You know a lot of people. (seem) You
- My English is getting better. (seem)
- That car has broken down. (appear)
- David forgets things. (tend)
- They have solved the problem. (claim)

54.5 Complete each sentence using what/how/whether + the following verbs:

do get go ride say use

- Do you know how to get to John's house?
- Can you show me this washing machine?
- Would you know if there was a fire in the building?
- You'll never forget a bicycle once you've learnt.
- I was really astonished. I didn't know
- I've been invited to the party, but I haven't decided or not.

Unit 56

Verb + -ing or to ... 1 (remember/regret etc.)

A

Some verbs are followed by **-ing** and some are followed by **to ...**.

Verbs usually followed by **-ing**:

admit	fancy	postpone
avoid	finish	risk
consider	imagine	stop
deny	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	mind	

For examples, see Unit 53.

Verbs usually followed by **to ...**:

afford	fail	offer
agree	forget	plan
arrange	hope	promise
decide	learn	refuse
deserve	manage	threaten

For examples, see Unit 54.

B

Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference of meaning:

remember

I **remember doing** something = I did it and now I remember this.

You **remember doing** something *after* you have done it.

- ☐ I know I locked the door. I clearly **remember locking** it.
(= I locked it, and now I remember this)
- ☐ He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

I **remembered to do** something = I

remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it.

- ☐ I **remembered to lock** the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.
(= I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- ☐ Please **remember to post** the letter.
(= don't forget to post it)

regret

I **regret doing** something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it:

- ☐ I now **regret saying** what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- ☐ It began to get cold and he **regretted not wearing** his coat.

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform you** = I'm sorry that I have to say (etc.):

- ☐ (*from a formal letter*) We **regret to inform** you that we cannot offer you the job.

go on

Go on doing something = continue with the same thing:

- ☐ The president paused for a moment and then **went on talking**.
- ☐ We need to change. We can't **go on living** like this.

Go on to do something = do or say something new:

- ☐ After discussing the economy, the president then **went on to talk** about foreign policy.

C

The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...**:

begin start continue intend bother

So you can say:

- ☐ It has **started raining**. or It has **started to rain**.
- ☐ John **intends buying** a house. or John **intends to buy** ...
- ☐ Don't **bother locking** the door. or Don't **bother to lock** ...

But normally we do not use **-ing** after **-ing**:

- ☐ It's **starting to rain**. (*not* It's starting raining)

56.1 Put the verb into the correct form, -ing or to Sometimes either form is possible.

- 1 They denied stealing the money. (steal)
- 2 I don't enjoy very much. (drive)
- 3 I don't want out tonight. I'm too tired. (go)
- 4 I can't afford out tonight. I don't have enough money. (go)
- 5 Has it stopped yet? (rain)
- 6 Our team was unlucky to lose the game. We deserved (win)
- 7 Why do you keep me questions? Can't you leave me alone? (ask)
- 8 Please stop me questions! (ask)
- 9 I refuse any more questions. (answer)
- 10 One of the boys admitted the window. (break)
- 11 The boy's father promised for the window to be repaired. (pay)
- 12 If the company continues money, the factory may be closed. (lose)
- 13 'Does Sarah know about the meeting?' 'No, I forgot her.' (tell)
- 14 The baby began in the middle of the night. (cry)
- 15 Julia has been ill, but now she's beginning better. (get)
- 16 I've enjoyed you. I hope you again soon. (meet, see)

56.2 Here is some information about Tom when he was a child.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 He was in hospital when he was four. | 4 Once he fell into the river. |
| 2 He went to Paris when he was eight. | 5 He said he wanted to be a doctor. |
| 3 He cried on his first day at school. | 6 Once he was bitten by a dog. |

He can still remember 1, 2 and 4. But he can't remember 3, 5 and 6. Write sentences beginning He can remember ... or He can't remember

- 1 He can remember being in hospital when he was four.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

56.3 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, -ing or to

- 1 a Please remember to lock the door when you go out.
b A: You lent me some money a few months ago.
B: Did I? Are you sure? I don't remember you any money.
- c A: Did you remember your sister?
B: Oh no, I completely forgot. I'll phone her tomorrow.
- d When you see Steve, remember him my regards.
- e Someone must have taken my bag. I clearly remember it by the window and now it has gone.
- 2 a I believe that what I said was fair. I don't regret it.
b I knew they were in trouble, but I regret I did nothing to help them.
- 3 a Ben joined the company nine years ago. He became assistant manager after two years, and a few years later he went on manager of the company.
b I can't go on here any more. I want a different job.
c When I came into the room, Liz was reading a newspaper. She looked up and said hello, and then went on her newspaper.

Verb + -ing or to ... 2 (try/need/help)

A

Try to ... and try -ing

Try to do = attempt to do, make an effort to do:

- ☐ I was very tired. I **tried to keep** my eyes open, but I couldn't.
- ☐ Please **try to be** quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.

Try also means 'do something as an experiment or test'. For example:

- ☐ These cakes are delicious. You should **try one**. (= you should have one to see if you like it)
- ☐ We couldn't find anywhere to stay. We **tried** every hotel in the town, but they were all full. (= we went to every hotel to see if they had a room)

If **try** (with this meaning) is followed by a verb, we say **try -ing**:

- ☐ A: The photocopier doesn't seem to be working.
- ☐ B: **Try pressing** the green button.
(= press the green button – perhaps this will help to solve the problem)

Compare:

- ☐ I **tried to move** the table, but it was too heavy. (so I couldn't move it)
- ☐ I didn't like the way the furniture was arranged, so I **tried moving** the table to the other side of the room. But it still didn't look right, so I moved it back again.

B

Need to ... and need -ing

I **need to do** something = it is necessary for me to do it:

- ☐ I **need to take** more exercise.
- ☐ He **needs to work** harder if he wants to make progress.
- ☐ I don't **need to come** to the meeting, do I?

Something **needs doing** = it needs to be done:

- ☐ The batteries in the radio **need changing**.
(= they need to be changed)
- ☐ Do you think my jacket **needs cleaning**?
(= ... needs to be cleaned)
- ☐ It's a difficult problem. It **needs thinking** about very carefully. (= it needs to be thought about)



C

Help and can't help

You can say **help to do** or **help do** (with or without to):

- ☐ Everybody **helped to clean up** after the party. *or*
Everybody **helped clean up** ...
- ☐ Can you **help me to move** this table? *or*
Can you **help me move** ...

I **can't help doing** something = I can't stop myself doing it:

- ☐ I don't like him, but he has a lot of problems. I **can't help feeling** sorry for him.
- ☐ She tried to be serious, but she **couldn't help laughing**.
(= she couldn't stop herself laughing)
- ☐ I'm sorry I'm so nervous. I **can't help it**.
(= I can't help **being** nervous)

57.1 Make suggestions. Each time use try + one of the following suggestions:

phone his office move the aerial ~~change the batteries~~
turn it the other way take an aspirin

- 1 The radio isn't working. I wonder what's wrong with it.
- 2 I can't open the door. The key won't turn.
- 3 The TV picture isn't very good. What can I do about it?
- 4 I can't contact Fred. He's not at home. What shall I do?
- 5 I've got a terrible headache. I wish it would go.

Have you tried changing the batteries?

Try

Have you tried

Why don't you

Have you

57.2 For each picture, write a sentence with need(s) + one of the following verbs:

~~clean~~ cut empty paint tighten



- 1 This jacket is dirty. It needs cleaning.
- 2 The room isn't very nice.
- 3 The grass is very long. It
- 4 The screws are loose.
- 5 The bin is full.

57.3 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 a I was very tired. I tried to keep (keep) my eyes open, but I couldn't.
- b I rang the doorbell, but there was no answer. Then I tried (knock) on the door, but there was still no answer.
- c We tried (put) the fire out but without success. We had to call the fire brigade.
- d Sue needed to borrow some money. She tried (ask) Gerry, but he was short of money too.
- e I tried (reach) the shelf, but I wasn't tall enough.
- f Please leave me alone. I'm trying (concentrate).
- 2 a I need a change. I need (go) away for a while.
- b My grandmother isn't able to look after herself any more. She needs (look) after.
- c The windows are dirty. They need (clean).
- d Your hair is getting very long. It needs (cut).
- e You don't need (iron) that shirt. It doesn't need (iron).
- 3 a They were talking very loudly. I couldn't help (overhear) what they said.
- b Can you help me (get) the dinner ready?
- c He looks so funny. Whenever I see him, I can't help (smile).
- d The fine weather helped (make) it a very enjoyable holiday.

Verb + -ing or to ... 3 (like / would like etc.)

A

Like / love / hate

When you talk about repeated actions, you can use **-ing** or **to ...** after these verbs.

So you can say:

- ☐ Do you **like getting up** early? or Do you **like to get up** early?
- ☐ Stephanie **hates flying**. or Stephanie **hates to fly**.
- ☐ I **love meeting** people. or I **love to meet** people.
- ☐ I **don't like being kept** waiting. or ... **like to be kept** waiting.
- ☐ I **don't like friends calling** me at work. or ... friends **to call** me at work.

but

- (1) We use **-ing** (*not to ...*) when we talk about a situation that already exists (or existed).

For example:

- ☐ Paul lives in Berlin now. He **likes living** there. (He **likes living** in Berlin = He lives there and he likes it)
- ☐ Do you **like being** a student? (You are a student – do you like it?)
- ☐ The office I worked in was horrible. I **hated working** there. (I worked there and I hated it)

- (2) There is sometimes a difference between **I like to do** and **I like doing**:

I like doing something = I do it and I enjoy it:

- ☐ I **like cleaning** the kitchen. (= I enjoy it.)

I like to do something = I think it is a good thing to do, but I don't necessarily enjoy it:

- ☐ It's not my favourite job, but I **like to clean** the kitchen as often as possible.

Note that **enjoy** and **mind** are always followed by **-ing** (*not to ...*):

- ☐ I **enjoy cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I enjoy to clean)
- ☐ I **don't mind cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I don't mind to clean)

B

Would like / would love / would hate / would prefer

Would like / would love etc. are usually followed by **to ...** :

- ☐ I'd **like** (= **would like**) to go away for a few days.
- ☐ **Would you like to come** to dinner on Friday?
- ☐ I **wouldn't like to go** on holiday alone.
- ☐ I'd **love to meet** your family.
- ☐ **Would you prefer to have** dinner now or later?

Compare **I like** and **I would like** (I'd like):

- ☐ I **like playing** tennis. / I **like to play** tennis. (= I like it in general)
- ☐ I'd **like to play** tennis today. (= I want to play today)

Would mind is always followed by **-ing** (*not to ...*):

- ☐ **Would you mind closing** the door, please?

C

I would like to have done something = I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do it:

- ☐ It's a pity we **didn't see** Val when we were in London. I **would like to have seen** her again.
- ☐ We'd **like to have gone** away, but we were too busy at home.

You can use the same structure after **would love / would hate / would prefer**:

- ☐ Poor old David! I **would hate to have been** in his position.
- ☐ I'd **love to have gone** to the party, but it was impossible.

58.1 Write sentences about yourself. Say whether you like or don't like these activities. Choose one of these verbs for each sentence:

like / don't like love hate enjoy don't mind

- 1 (fly) I don't like flying. or I don't like to fly.
- 2 (play cards)
- 3 (be alone)
- 4 (go to museums)
- 5 (cook)

58.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use -ing or to Sometimes either form is possible.

- 1 Paul lives in Berlin now. It's nice. He likes it.
(he / like / live / there) He likes living there.
- 2 Jane is a biology teacher. She likes her job.
(she / like / teach / biology) She
- 3 Joe always carries his camera with him and takes a lot of photographs.
(he / like / take / photographs)
- 4 I used to work in a supermarket. I didn't like it much.
(I / not / like / work / there)
- 5 Rachel is studying medicine. She likes it.
(she / like / study / medicine)
- 6 Dan is famous, but he doesn't like it.
(he / not / like / be / famous)
- 7 Jennifer is a very cautious person. She doesn't take many risks.
(she / not / like / take / risks)
- 8 I don't like surprises.
(I / like / know / things / in advance)

58.3 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, -ing or to In one sentence either form is possible.

- 1 It's good to visit other places – I enjoy travelling.
- 2 'Would you like down?' 'No, thanks. I'll stand.'
- 3 I'm not quite ready yet. Would you mind a little longer?
- 4 When I was a child, I hated to bed early.
- 5 When I have to catch a train, I'm always worried that I'll miss it. So I like to the station in plenty of time.
- 6 I enjoy busy. I don't like it when there's nothing to do.
- 7 I would love to your wedding, but I'm afraid it isn't possible.
- 8 I don't like in this part of town. I want to move somewhere else.
- 9 Do you have a minute? I'd like to you about something.
- 10 If there's bad news and good news, I like the bad news first.

58.4 Write sentences using would ... to have (done). Use the verbs in brackets.

- 1 It's a pity I couldn't go to the wedding. (like) I would like to have gone to the wedding.
- 2 It's a pity I didn't see the programme. (like)
- 3 I'm glad I didn't lose my watch. (hate)
- 4 It's a pity I didn't meet your parents. (love)
- 5 I'm glad I wasn't alone. (not / like)
- 6 It's a pity I couldn't travel by train. (prefer)